

T H E
Earle of Gowries

Conspiracie against the
Kings Maiestie.

At Saint Iohnstoun vpon Tuesday
the fift day of August : And in the
sixteenth hundred yeare of
our Lord God.



Printed at London by Valentine Simmes, dwelling
on Adling hill at the signe of the
white Swanne.

1603.

THE
FABLE OF
GOWRIES

A CORRUPTION OF
KING'S MATHIE

By John Jobson upon the
the first day of August : And in the
thousand hundred years of
our Lord God.



Printed at London by Valentine Simmes, dwelling
on Alding hill at the sign of the
White Swan.

1602.



A Discourse, of the vnnaturall and
vile conspiracie, attempted against his
Maiesties person at Saint Iohnstoun, vpon
the fift day of August being Tuesday.

1600.



Is Maiestie hauing his residence at *Falkland*, and being daily at the Bucke-hunting (as his vse is in that season) vpon the fift day of *August*, being Tuesday, he raide out to the Parke, betwixt sixe and seauen of the clocke in the morning, the weather being woonderfull pleasant and seasonable. But before his Maiesty coulde leape on horse backe, his Highnesse being now come downe by the equery: all the Hunt-men with hownds attending his Maiestie on the Greene, & the Court making to their horses, as his Highnesse selfe was: maister *Alexander Ruthwen*, second brother to the late earle of *Gowry*, being then lighted in the towne of *Falkland*, hasted him fast downe to ouertake his maiestie before his on-leaping, as hee did. Where meeting his Highnesse, after a very lowe curtesie, bowing his head vnder his Maiesties knee, (although he was neuer wont to make so lowe curtesie) drawing his Maiestie aparte, hee beginnes to discourse vnto him (with a very deiected countenance, his

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eyes euer fixed vpon the earth) how that it chanced him in the euening before, to be walking abroad about the fields, taking the ayre solitarie alone, without the Towne of Saint *Johnstoun*, where his present dwelling with the Lord his brother was: and there, by accident, affirmed to haue recounted a base-like fellow, vnkowne to him, with a cloake cast about his mouth: whome as he enquired his name, and what his errand was to be passing in so solitary a parte, being from all wayes: the fellow became on a sodaine so amazed, and his tongue so faultred in his mouth, that vppon his suspicious behauior he begunne more narrowly to looke vnto him, and examine him: and perceiuing that there appeared some thing to be hidde vnder his cloake, he did cast by the lappes of it, and so findes a great wide pot to be vnder his arme, all full of coyned golde in great peeces, assuring his Maiesty that it was in very great quantity. Vpon the sight wherof (as he affirmed) hee tooke backe the fellow with the burthen to the Towne, where he priuately, without the knowledge of any man, tooke the fellow, and bound him in a priuie dained house: and after locked many doores vppon him, and left him there, and his pot with him, and had hasted himselfe out of Saint *Johnstoun* that day by foure houres in the morning, to make his Maiesty aduertised thereof, according to his bound duety: earnestly requesting his Maiestie with all diligence and secrecie, that his Maiesty might take order therewith; before any did know thereof; swearing, and protesting, that he had yet concealed it from all men: yea, from the Earle his owne brother. His Maiesties first answere was (after thanking him for his good will) that it could not become his maiesty to meddle any wayes in that matter, since no mans treasure that is a free and lawefull subiect, can by the Lawe appertaine vnto the King, except it be found hid vnder the earth, as this was nor. Wherevnto he answered, that the fellow confessed vnto him, that he was going to haue hidde it vnder the ground, but he could

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could not take leasure at that time to enquire any further of him. Wherevnto the King replied, that there was great difference betwixt a deede, and the intention of a deede: his intention to haue hidde it, not being alike as if it had beene found already hidde. Maister *Alexanders* answer was, that hee thought his maiestie ouer scrupulous in such a matter, tending so greatly to his maiesties profite: and that if his maiestie deferred to meddle with it, that it might be, that the Lord his brother, and other great men might meddle with it, and make his maiestie the more adoe. Wherevpon the King beginning to suspect that it had bin some forraine gold brought home by some Iesuites for practising Papistes (therewith to stirre vp some new sedition, as they haue oftentimes done before) inquired of the saide maister *Alexander*, what kinde of coyne it was, and what a fellowe hee was that carried it. His answer was, that so farre as hee could take leasure to see of them, that they seemed to be forraine strokes of coyne, and although the fellow, both by his language and fashions seemed to be a Scots fellow, yet he could neuer remember that he had seene him before. These speeches encreased his maiesties suspicion, that it was forraine coyne, brought in by some practising Papistes, and to be distributed into the Country, as is before saide: and that the fellow that carried it, was some Scots Priest, or Seminary so disguised, for the more sure transporting thereof.

Wherevpon his maiesty resolved that he would send backe with the saide maister *Alexander*, a seruant of his owne, with a warrant to the Prouost and Bailiffes of Saint *Johnstoun*, to receiue both the fellow and the money at maister *Alexanders* hands, and after they had examined the fellow, to retaine him and the treasure, till his maiesties further pleasure was knowne.

Whereat the saide maister *Alexander* stirred maruellously: affirming and protesting, that if either the Lord his brother,

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ther, or the Bailiffes of the Towne were putte on the counsaile thereof: his maiestie would gette a very badde count made to him of that treasure, swearing that the great loue and affection hee bare vnto his maiestie, had made him to preferre his maiesty in this case, both before himselfe and his brother. For the which seruice hee humbly craued that recompence, that his maiestie would take the paines once to ride thither, that hee might be the first seer thereof himselfe: which being done, hee would remitte to his maiesties owne honourable discretion, how farre it would please his maiestie to consider vpon him for that seruice.

His Highnesse beeing stricken in great admiration, both of the vncouthnesse of the tale, and of the strange and stupide behauour of the Reporter: and the Court being already horsed, wondering at his maiesties so long stay with that Gentleman, the morning being so faire, the game already found, and the Huntsmen so long staying in the fieldes for his maiestie: he was forced to breake off onely with these words, that he could not now stay any longer from his sporte, but that he would consider of the matter, and at the end of his chase, giue him a resolute answer, what order hee would take therein. Wherevpon his Maiestie parted in haste from him towards the place where the game was.

Maister *Alexander* parting from his maiestie very discontent, that indelayedly he raide not to Saint *Johnstown*, as hee desired him: protesting that his Maiesty would not finde euery day such a choice of hunting, as he had offered to him, and that hee feared that his Maiesties long delay and slownesse of resolution, would breede leasure to the fellowe, who was lying bound, to cry, or make such dinne, as would disappoynt the secrecie of that whole purpose, and make both the fellowe and the treasure to be meddled with, before any word could come from his maiestie, as also, that his brother would misse him, in respect of his absence that morning, which

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if his maiesty had pleased to haste, hee might have preuented :
arriuing there in the time of his brothers, and the whole towns
being at the Sermon : whereby his maiestie might haue ta-
ken such secret order with that matter, as he pleased, before
their out-comming from the Church. But his maiestie, with-
out any further answering him, leaping on horse backe, and
riding to the dogges, where they were beginning to hunt, the
saide maister *Alexander* stayed still in that place where he left
his maiestie : and hauing two men with him, appoynted by
the Earle his brother, to carry backe vnto him the certaine
newes in all haste, of his maiesties comming (as heere after
more particularly shall in this same Discourse be declared.)

Hee directed the one of them called *Andrew Henderjoun*,
Chamberlaine to the saide Earle, to ride in all haste to the
Earle, commaunding him, as hee loued his brothers honour,
that he should not spare for spilling of his horse, and that he
should aduertise the Earle, that he hoped to mooue his maie-
stie to come thither, and that he should not yet looke for him,
the space of three houres thereafter, because of his maiesties
hunting, adding these wordes : Pray my Lord my brother,
to prepare the dinner for vs. But his maiestie was no sooner
ridden vppe to a little hill aboue the little wood, where the
dogges were laide on in hunting : but that notwithstanding
the pleasant beginning of the chase, hee could not stay from
musing and wondering vpon the newes. Wherevpon with-
out making any body acquainted with this purpose, finding
John Nesmith Chirurgical, by chaunce riding besides him, his
Maiestie directed him backe, to bring maister *Alexander* with
him : who being brought vnto his maiestie, and hauing new-
ly directed, as saide is, one of his men that was with him, backe
to my Lorde his brother, his maiesty vnknowing on suspect-
ing that any man liuing had come with him, then tolde him
that he had beene aduising with himselfe, and in respect of his
last wordes so earnest with him, hee resolved to ride thither
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for that arrand in his owne person, how soone the chase was ended; which was already begunne. Like as his Maiestie, vpon the very ending of these wordes, did ride away in the chase, the saide maister *Alexander* following him at his backe, no other creature being with his Highnesse, but hee, and *John Hamilton* of *Grange*, one of his Maiesties maister-stablers, the rest of the Court being all before in the chase, his Maiestie onely being cast backe, vpon the staying to speake with maister *Alexander*, as is before said.

The chase lasted from about seauen of the clocke in the morning, vntill eleauen, and more, being one of the greatest and foreest Chases that euer his Maiesty was at: all which time the sayde maister *Alexander* was (for the most part) euer at his Maiesties backe, as is sayde. But there neuer was any stop in the chase, or so small a delay, that the saide maister *Alexander* omitted to round his Maiestie, earnestly requesting him to hasten the end of the hunting, that hee might ride the sooner to Saint *Iohnstoun*: So as at the death of the Bucke, his Maiesty, not staying vpon the curry of the Diere, (as his vse is) scarcely tooke time to alight, awayting vpon the coming of a fresh horse to ride on, the greatnesse of the chase hauing wearied his horse.

But the saide maister *Alexander* would not suffer the King to stay in the Parke where the Bucke was killed, while his fresh horse, which was already sent for, was brought out of the equery to him, (although it was not two flight shoote off betwixt the Parke where the Bucke was killed, and his Maiesties equery:) but with very importunitie forced his Maiestie to leape on againe vpon that same horse, that hee had hunted all the day vpon, his fresh horse being made to gallop a mile of the way to ouertake him: his Maiesty not staying so much as vpon his sword, not while the Duke and the Earle of *Marre*, with diuerse other Gentlemen in his companie had changed their horse: onely saying vnto them, that hee

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was to ride to saint *Johnstoun* to speake with the Earle of *Gowrie*, and that he would be presently backe againe before then.

Wherevpon some of the Court galloped backe to *Falkland* as fast as they could, to change their horses, but could not overtake his Maistie, vntill hee came within foure miles of *Saint Johnstoun*. Others rode forward with their horses, wearied as they were, whereof some were compelled to alight by the way, and had they not both refreshed their horses, fed them, and giuen them some grasse by the way, they had not caried them to *Saint Johnstoun*. The cause of his maiesties seruants following so fast, vndesired by him, was onely grounded vpon a suspition they had conceined, that his maiesties intention of riding, was for the apprehension of the master *Elephant*, one who had late laide downe a vile and proud oppression in *Angus* for repairing of the which, they thought his maiesty had some purpose for his apprehension.

But the saide maister *Alexander* seeing the Duke and the earle of *Marre*, with diuers of the Court, getting fresh horse to followe his maiesty, earnestly desired him, that hee would publish to his whole traine, that since hee was to returne the same evening, as is afore-said, they needed not to follow him, especially that hee thought it meetest his maiesty should stay the duke and the earle of *Marre* to follow him, and that hee should only take three or foure of his owne seruants with him, affirming, that if any noble man followed him, hee could not answer for it, but that they would marre that whole purpose. Wherevpon his maiesty halfe angry replied, that hee would not mistrust the Duke, nor the Earle in a greater purpose then that, and that he could not vnderstand what hinderance anie man could make in that strand.

But these last speeches of maister *Alexanders*, made the King to beginne to suspect what it should meane: whereupon many and sundry thoughts beganne to enter into the Kings minde: yet his maiesty could neuer suspect any harme to bee

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intended against his Highnesse by that young Gentleman, with whome his Maiestie had beene so well acquainted, as he had, not long before, beene in suit to be one of the Gentlemen of his Chamber: so as, the farthest that the Kings suspicion could reach to, was, that it might be that the Earle his brother had handled him so hardly, that the yong gentleman, being of a high spirite, had taken such displeasure, as hee was become somewhat beside himselfe, which his Maiesty coniectured, as well by his raised and yncouth staring, and continual pensiveness all the time of the hunting, as likewise, by such strange sorte of vnlikely discourses, as are already mentioned.

Wherevpon the king tooke occasion to make the Duke of *Lennox* acquainted with the whole purpose, enquiring of him very earnestly, what he knew of that yoong Gentlemans nature, being his brother in law: and if hee had perceiued him to be subiect to any high apprehension, his Maiesty declaring his suspicion plainly to the said Lord Duke, that he thought him not well settled in his wits: always desiring my lord Duke, not to faile to accompany him into that house, where the alleged fellow and treasure was.

The lord Duke wondered much at that purpose, and thought it very likely: yet he affirmed that hee could never perceiue any such appearance in that gentlemans inclination. But maister *Alexander* perceiuing his Maiesties priue conference with the Duke, and suspecting the purpose, as it appeared, came to the King, requesting his Maiesty very earnestly, hee shoulde make none living acquainted with that purpose, nor suffer none to go with his Maiesty where he should conuoy him but himselfe onely, till his maiesty had once seene the fellow and the treasure; whereunto his maiesty halfe laughing, gaue answere, that he was no good teller of mony, & behoued therefore to haue some to helpe him in that errand: his reple was, that he would suffer none to see it but his Maiesties self at the first, but afterward he might call in whom he pleased.

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These speeches did so increase his suspicion, that then hee beganne directly to suspect some treasonable deuise. Yet many suspicions and thoughts ouerwhelming one euery one another in his minde, his maiestie could resolve vpon no certaine thing; but rode further on his iourney, betwixt trust and distrust, being ashamed to seem to suspect, in respect of the cleanness of his Maiesties owne conscience, except hee had found some greater ground. Maister *Alexander* still preasing the King to ride faster, though his owne horse was scarcely able to keepe company with the King for wearines, hauing ridden with him all the chase before. The King being come two mile from *Falkeland*, maister *Alexander* stayed a little behinde the King in the way, and posted away the other seruant *Andrew Rustwen* to the Earle his brother, aduertising him how farre the King was on his way to come thither. Then how soone soeuer the King came within a mile of *Johnstown*, hee saide to his Maiestie, that he would post in before, to aduertise the earle his brother of his Maiesties comming: who at his incomming to him, was sitting at the midst of his dinner, neuer seeming to take knowledge of the Kings comming, til his brother told it him, notwithstanding that two of his seruants had aduertised him thereof before. And immediately vpon his brothers report, rising in haste from the boord, and warning all the seruants and friends to accompanie him to meete his Maiestie, who met him with three or fourescore men; at the end of the Inshe, his Maiesties whole traine not exceeding the number of fiftene persons, and all without any kinde of armour, except swordes, no not so much as daggers or whingers. His Maiestie stayed an houre after his comming to the said Earles lodging in Saint *Johnstown* before his dinner came in. The longsomnesse of preparing the same, and badnes of the cheere being excused vpon the sodaine comming of his Maiesty vnlooked for there.

During which time, his Maiestie enquired of maister *A-*

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Alexander, when it was time for him to go to that private house, about that matter whereof he had informed him, who answered, that all was sure enough, but that there was no haste yet for an houre, till the King had dined at leisure. Praying his maiesty to leaue him, and not to be seene to round with him before his Brother, who hauing missed him that morning, might thereuppon suspect what the matter should meane. Therefore his maiestie addressed him to the Earle, & discoursed with him vpon sundry matters, but could get no direct answer of him, but halfe words, and imperfect sentences.

His maiestie being set downe to his dinner, the saide Earle stood very pensiue, & with a dejected countenance at the end of his maiesties table, oft rounding ouer his shoulder, one while to one of his seruants, and another while to another: and oft times went out and in to the chamber. Which forme of behauiour he likewise kept before the Kings sitting downe to dinner: but without any welcomming of his maiestie, or anie other hearty forme of entertainment. The noblemen and Gentlemen of the Court that were with his maiestie standing about the table, and not desir'd to dine (as the vse is when his maiesty is once set down, and his first seruice brought vp) vntill his maiesty had almost dined. At which time the earle conueyed them forth to their dinner, but sate not down with them himselfe (as the common manner is) but came backe and stood silent at the end of the Kings table, as hee did before: which his maiesty perceiuing, beganne to entertaine the Earle in a homely manner, wondring hee had not remained to dine with his guests, and entertaine them there.

His maiesty being ready to rise from the Table, and all his seruants in the Hall at their dinner, *maister Alexander* standing behinde his maiesties backe, pulled quietly vpon him, rounding in his maiesties eare, that it was time to goe, but that he would faine haue beene quit of the Earle his Brother, wishing the King to send him out into the Hall, to entertaine his

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his guests: wherevpon the King called for drinke, and in a merry and homely maner said to the earle, that although the earle had seene the fashion of entertainment in other countries, yet he would teach him the Scottish fashion, seeing hee was a Scottish man: and therefore since he had forgotten to drinke to his Maiesty, or fitte with his guests and entertaine them, his maiestie would drinke to him his owne welcome, desiring him to take it forth and drinke to the rest of the company, and in his maiesties name to make them welcome. Wherevpon as he went forth, his maiestie rose from the table, and desired maister *Alexander* to bring fir *Thomas Erskine* with him: who desiring the King to goe forward with him, and promising that he should make any one or two follow him that he pleased to call for, desiring his maiestie to commaund publikely that none should followe him: Thus the King accompanied onely with the saide maister *Alexander*, comes forth of the chamber, passeth through the end of the Hall, where the noble men and his maiesties seruantes were sitting at their dinner, vp a turne-pecke, and through three or foure Chambers, the saide maister *Alexander* euer locking behinde him every doore as he passed: and then with a more smiling countenance than he had all the day before, euer saying, hee had him sure and safe enough kept: vntill at the last, his maiesty passing through three or foure sundrie houses, and all the doores locked behinde him, his maiestie entered into a little studie, where he sawe standing with a very abased countenance, not a bond man, but a free man, with a dagger at his girdle. But his maiestie had no sooner entred into that little study, and maister *Alexander* with him, but maister *Alexander* locked the studie doore behinde him, and at that instant changing his countenance, putting his hatte on his head, and drawing the dagger from that other mans girdle, held the poynt of it to the kings breast, auowing now, that the King behooued to be in his will, and vsed as he list:

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swearing many bloody oths, that if the King cried one word, or opened a window to look out, that dagger should presently goe to his heart: affirming, that he was sure, that now the Kings conscience was burthened for murdering his father. His maistie wondring at so sodaine an alteration, and standing naked, without any kinde of armour but his hunting horne, which he had not gotten leisure to lay from him, betwixt these two Traitors which had conspired his life: the said maister *Alexander* standing (as is saide) with a dagger in his hand, and his sword at his side: but the other trembling & quaking, rather like one condemned, than an executioner of such an enterprise.

His maiestie began then to dilate to the said maister *Alexander*, how horrible a thing it was for him to meddle with his maiesties innocent blood, assuring him it would not be vnrueged, since God had giuen him children and good subiects, and if they neither, yet God would raise vp stocks and stones, to punish so vile a deede.

Protesting before God, that he had no burthen in his conscience for the execution of his father: both in respect that at the time of his fathers execution, his maiestie was but a *minor* of age, and guided at that time by a faction which ouer-ruled both his maiestie, and the rest of the country: as also that whatsoever was done to his Father, it was done by the ordinary course of Law and Iustice.

Appealing the said maister *Alexander* vpon his conscience how well he at all times since had deserved at the hands of all his race, not onely hauing restored them to all their lands and dignities, but also in nourishing & bringing vp of two or three of his sisters, as it were in his owne bosome, by a continuall attendance vppon his maiesties dearest bedfellow in her priuie chamber.

Laying also before him, the terrors of his conscience, especially, that he made profession, according to his education, of
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the same religion which his Maiestie had euer professed: and namely, his Maiesty remembred him of that holy man, maister *Robert Rollocke*, whose scholler he was, assuring him, that one day the saide maister *Roberts* soule would accuse him, that he had neuer learned of him to practise such vnnatural cruelty. His Maiesty promising to him, on the word of a Prince, that if he would spare his life, and suffer him to goe out againe, hee woulde neuer reueale to any flesh living, what was betwixt them at that time, nor neuer suffer him to incurre any harme or punishment for the same.

But his Maiesties feare was, that he could hope for no sparing at his hands having such cruelty in his lookes, and standing so irreuerently covered, with his hat on, which forme of rigorous behauiour, could prognosticate nothing to his Maiestie, but present extreamity. But at his Maiesties perswasive language, he appeared to be somewhat amazed, and vncouering his head againe, swore and protested that his Maiesties life should be safe, if he would behaue himself quietly, without making noyse or crying: and that he would only bring in the Earle his brother to speake with his Maiesty: whereupon his Maiesty enquiring what the Earle would doe with him, since (if his Maiesties life were safe according to promise) they could gaine little in keeping such a prisoner. His answer only was, that he could tell his Maiesty no more, but that his life should be safe, in case hee behaved himself quietly, the rest, the Earle his brother, whome hee was going for, would tell his Maiesty at his comming. With that as he was going forth for his brother, as he affirmed, he turned him about to the other man, saying these wordes vnto him, I make you heere the Kings keeper, till I come backe againe, and see that you keep him, upon your owne perill: and therewithall saide to his maiestie, you must content your selfe to haue this man now your keeper, vntill my comming backe.

With these words he passeth forth, locking the doore af-

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set him, leaving his maiestie with that man hee found there before him. Of whom his maiestie then enquired, if he were appoynted to be the murtherer of him at that time, and howe farre he was vpon the counsell of that conspiracie, whose answer with a trembling and astonished vbyce and behauiour, was, that as the Lord should iudge him, hee was neuer made acquainted with that purpose, but that hee was putte in there perforce, and the doore lockt vpon him, a little space before his maiesties comming: as indeede all the tyme of the said master *Alexanders* menacing his maiestie, hee was ever trembling, requesting him for Gods sake, and with many other attestations, not to meddle with his maiestie, not to doe him any harme. But because master *Alexan* had before his going forth, made the King sweare he should not cry, nor open any window, his maiestie commaunded the saide fellowe to open the window on his right hand, which he readily did: so that although he was put in there to vse violence on the King, yet God so turned his heart, as he became a slave to his prisoner.

While his maiestie was in this dangerous estate, and none of his owne seruants nor traine knowing where hee was, and as his maiesties traine was rising in the Hall from their dinner, the earle of *Gowrie* himselfe being there present with them, one of the earle of *Gowries* seruantes commeth hastily in assuring the earle his maister, that his maiestie is horsed, and away through the Inche, which the earle reporting to the noble men, and the rest of his maiesties traine that was there present, they all rushed out together at the gate in great haste: And some of his maiesties seruantes enquiring of the Porter when his Maiestie went forth? The Porter affirmed, that the King was not yet gone forth. Wherevpon the earle looked very angrily vpon him, and saide, hee was but a liar: yet turning him to the Duke, and to the Earle of *Marre*, said hee should presently get them certaine wordes where his maiesty was, and wuld that ranke through the close and

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and vp the staires. But his purpose indeede, was to speake with his brother, as appeared very well by the circumstance of time, his brother hauing at that same instant, left the King in the little study, and ranne downe the staires in great haste.

Immediately after the earle commeth backe, running againe to the gate, where the noble men and the rest were standing in amaze, assuring them that the King was gone long since out at the backe gate, and if they halted them not the sooner, they would not ouertake him: and with that, called for his horse, whereat they rust all together out at the gate, and made toward the Inshe, crying for all their horses: passing all (as it was the prouidence of God) vnder one of the windowes of that study, wherein his maiesty was. To whom maister *Alexander* very speedily returned, and at his incomming to his maiestie, casting his hands abroad in a desperate manner, saide: he could not mend it, his maiestie behoued to die: and with that offred a garter to binde his maiesties hands, with swearing, he behoued to be bound. His maiestie at that word of binding saide, he was borne a free King, and shoulde die a free King. Wherevpon, hee griping his maiestie by the wrest of the hand, to haue bound him, his maiestie relieved himselfe sodainely of his gripes: wherevpon, as hee put his right hand to his sword, his maiestie with his right hand seized vpon both his hand & his sword, and with his left hand, clasped him by the throate, like as he with his left hand claspt the King by the throate, with two or three of his fingers in his maiesties mouth, to haue stayed him from crying. In this manner of wrestling, his maiestie perforce drew him to the window, which he had caused the other man before to open vnto him, and vnder the which was passing by, at the same time, the Kings traine, and the earle of *Gowrie* with them, as is said, and holding out the right side of his head, and right elbowe, cried, that they were murdering him there in that treasonable forme, whose voyce being instantly heard and knowne by the duke

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of *Lennox*, the earle of *Marre*, and the rest of his Maiesties traine there : the saide earle of *Gowrie* euer asking what it meant : And neuer seeming any wayes to haue scene his maiestie, or heard his voice, they all rushed in at the gate together, the Duke and the earle of *Marre* running about to come by that passage his maiestie came in at . But the earle of *Gowrie* and his seruants made them for another way vp a quiet turne-pecke, which was euer condemned before, and was only then left open (as appeared) for that purpose.

And in this meane time, his Maiestie, with struggling and wrastring with the saide maister *Alexander*, had brought him perforce out of that study, the doore whereof, for haste, he had left open at his last in-comming, and his maiestie having gotten (with long struggling) the said maister *Alexanders* head vnder his arme, and himselfe on his knees, his maiestie droue him backe perforce hard to the doore of the same turnepike, and as his maiestie was throwing his sword out of his hand, thinking to haue stricken him therewith, and then to haue shot him ouer the staire, the other fellow standing behinde the Kings backe, and doing nothing but trembling all the time. Sir *Iohn Ramsay* not knowing what way first to enter, after hee had heard the Kings crie, by chance findes that turne-pike doore open, and following it vp to the head, enters in into the chamber, and findes his Maiestie and maister *Alexander* strugling in that forme, as is beforesaide : and after hee had twise or thrise stricken maister *Alexander* with his dagger, the other man withdrew himselfe, his Maiestie still keeping his gripes, and holding him close to him : immediatly thereafter he tooke the said maister *Alexander* by the shoulder, and shotte him downe the staire: who was no sooner shot out at the dore, but he was met by sir *Thomas Erskine*, and sir *Hew Hereis*, who there vpon the staire ended him: the said sir *Thomas Erskine* being cast behinde the Duke and the earle of *Marre* that ranne about the other way, by occasion of his meddling with the saide late Earle

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Earle in the streete, after the hearing of his maiesties crie. For vpon the hearing thereof, hee had clasped the earle of *Gowrie* by the gorget, and casting him vnder his feete, and wanting a dagger to haue stricken him with, the saide earles men rid the earle their maister out of his hands: whereby hee was cast behinde the rest, as is saide: and missing the company, and hearing the saide sir *John Ramsayes* voyce vpon the Turne-pecke head, ranne vp to the saide Chamber, and cried vpon the saide sir *Hew Hereis*, and another seruant to follow him: where, meeting with the saide master *Alexander* in the Turne-pecke, he ended him there, as is saide: the saide maister *Alexander* crying for his last words, Alas I had not the weight of it. But no sooner could the saide sir *Thomas*, sir *Hew*, and an other seruant winne into the chamber where his maiestie was, but that the saide earle of *Gowrie*, before they could get the doore shut, folowed them in at the back, hauing cast him directly to come vp that priuy passage, as is before saide: who at his first entrie, hauing a drawne sword in each hand, and a Steele bonet on his head, accompanied with seauen of his seruants, euery one of them hauing in like manner a drawne sword, cried out with a great oath, that they should all die as traitors. All the which time his maiesty was still in the chamber, who seeing the earle of *Gowrie* come in with his swords in his hands, sought for master *Alexanders* sworde which had fallen from him at his out-shutting at the doore, hauing no sort of weapons of his owne, as is saide; but then was shut backe by his owne seruants that were there, into the little study, and the doore shut vpon him, who hauing put his maiesty in safety, re-encountred the saide Earle and his seruantes, his Maiesties seruants being onely in number foure, to wit, sir *Hew Hereis*, sir *John Ramsay*, and one *Wilson*, a seruant of *James Erskins*, a brother of the saide sir *Thomas*, the saide earle hauing seauen of his owne seruantes with him: yet it pleased God, after many strokes on all hands, to giue his Maiesties seruants the victory, the saide earle of *Gowrie*

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being stricken dead with a stroke through the hart, which the said *John Ramsay* gaue him, without once crying vpon god; and the rest of his seruants dung ouer the stayres, with many hurtcs, as in like manner the saide *Thomas Erskin*, *John Hereis*, and *John Ramsay*, were all three very sore hurte and wounded.

But all the time of this fight, the Duke of *Lennox*, the earle of *Marre*, & the rest of his maiesties traine, were striking with great hammers at the vtter doore, whereby his maiestie passed vp to the chamber with the said master *Alexander*, which also he had lockt in his by-comming with his maiesty to the chamber: but by reason of the strength of the saide double doore, the whole wall being likewise of boords, & yeelding with the strokes: it did bide them the space of halfe an houre and more, before they could get it broken and haue entresse, who hauing met with his maiestie, found (beyond their expectation) his Maiestie deliuered from so imminent a perill, and the saide late Earle the principall conspirator lying dead at his maiesties feete. Immediatly thereafter his maiestie kneeling downe on his knees, in the midst of his owne seruants, and they all kneeling round about him, his Maiestie out of his owne mouth thanked God of that miraculous deliuerance and victory, assuring himselfe, that God had preserued him from so dispaired a perill, for the perfiting of some greater worke behind, to his glory, and for procuring, by him, the weale of his people that God had committed to his charge. After this the tumult of the Towne hearing of the slaughter of the saide Earle of *Gowrie* their Prouost, and not knowing the maner thereof, nor being on the counsell of his treasonable attempt, continued for the space of two or three houres thereafter, vntil his maiesty by oft speaking out to them at the windowes, and beckoning to them with his owne hand, pacifying them, causing the Bailifes and the rest of the honest men of the town to be brought into the chamber, to whom hauing declared the whole forme of that
that

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that strange accident, he committed the house and bodies of the saide traytors brethren, to their keeping, vntill his maiesties further pleasure were knowne. His maiestie hauing before his parting out of that Towne, caused to search the saide Earle of *Gowries* pockets, in case any letters that might further the discouery of that conspiracie might be found therein. But nothing was found in them, but a little close parchment bagge, full of magicall characters, and words of enchantment, wherein it seemed that he had put his confidence, thinking himselfe neuer safe without them, and therfore euer carried them about with him: being also obserued, that while they were vpon him, his wound whereof he died, bled not, but incontinent after the taking of them away, the bloud gushed out in great abundance, to the great admiration of the beholders. An infamie which hath followed and spotted the race of this house, for many discents, as is notoriously knowne to the whole country. Thus the night was far spent, being neere eight houres at euening before his maiestie could (for the great tumult that was in the Towne) depart out of the same. But before his maiestie had ridden foure miles out of the same towards *Falkland*, though the night was very darke and rainie: the whole way was clad with all sorts of people, both horse and foote, meeting him with great ioy and acclamation. The frequencie and concourse of persons of all degrees to *Falkeland*, the rest of the weeke, and to *Edenburgh* the next, from all the quarters of the country, the testimony of the subiects hearty affection and ioy for his Maiesties deliury, expressed euery where, by ringing of bells, bonefires, shooting off gunnes of all sortes, both by sea and land, &c. with all other things ensuing therevpon, I haue of set purpose pretermitted, as well knowne to all men, and impertinent to this discourse: contenting my selfe with this plaine and simple narration: adding onely for explanation and confirmation thereof, the depositions of certaine persons, who were either actors, and eye-witnesses, or immediate

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hearers of those things that they declare and testifie : where-
in, if the Reader shall finde any thing differing from this nar-
ration, either in substance or circumstance, he may vnderstand
the same to be vttered by the deponer in his owne behoofe,
for obtaining of his Maiesties princely grace and fauour.

Apud Falkland 9. August. 1600.

*In presence of the Lord Chancellor, Lord Treasurer, Lord Secre-
tary, Lord Comptroller, Lord Advocate, the Lord Incheffray,
and sir George Home of Spaw, Knights.*

I *Ames Weimis* of *Bogie*, of the age of 26. yeere or thereby,
sworne and examined vpon the forme and maner of beha-
viour of late *John Earle of Gowrie*, the time of his being with
him at *Strabran*, or if he had heard the saide earle make any
motion of the treason intended against his royall maiestie, de-
pones, that he neither heard, nor saw, any appearance of any
such intention in the saide earle.

Demaunded, if he was in any purpose with the saide earle, a-
gainst any matters of curiositie: depones, that at their being in
Strabran, some of their company found an edder, which being
killed, and knowledge thereof comming to the earle, the earle
saide to this deponer, *Bogie*, if the edder had not beene slaine, ye
should haue seene a good sporte : for I should haue caused hir
stand still, and she should not haue pressed away, by pronoun-
cing of one Hebrew word, which in Scottissh is called *holines*,
but the Hebrew word the Deponer remembers not of : and
that the earle saide, he had put the same in practise oft before.
And this deponer inquiring of the earle, where he got the He-
brew woorde, the earle answered, in a Cabbalist of the
Iewes, and that it was by Tradition : and the deponer inqui-
ring what a Cabbalist meant: the earle answered, it was some
words which the Iewes had by Tradition, which words were
spoken

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spoken by God to *Adam* in Paradise, and therefore were of greater efficacie and force than any wordes which were exco-
gitate since by Prophets and Apostles. The Deponer en-
quiring if there were no more requisite, but the word. The
earle answered, that a firme faith in God was requisite and ne-
cessary: and that this was no matter of maruell amongst Scho-
lers, but that all these things were naturall. And that the earle
shewed to this deponer, that he had spoken with a man in *Ita-
lie*: and first hearing (by report) that he was a Nigremancer,
and thereafter being informed that he was a very learned man,
and a deepe Theologue, he entred in further dealing with him
against the curiositie of nature.

Depones further, that the saide earle reported to him,
that hee being at musicke, hee fell in company with an other
man, who staring in the earles face, spake to the rest of the
company, things of him, which hee could neuer attaine vnto,
nor be worthy of: and therefore that the earle reproched him,
and desired him to forbear these speeches. And that he met
againe with the saide man in a like company, who did beginne
with the same language hee had spoken before: and that the
earle saide to him, my friend, in case you will not holde your
peace from speaking lies of me, I will make you holde your
peace by speaking truth of you, and said vnto him within such
a space he should be hanged for such a crime: and so it came to
passe. This Deponer enquiring of the Earle, who told him
that? he answered merrily, that he spake it by guesse, and it fell
out so. And that the earle said further, that it was nothing to
make an hearb flesh which would dissolue in flies: and that
likewise it was possible that the seed of man & woman might
be brought to perfection otherwise than by the matrix of the
woman: and that this deponer counselled the earle to beware
with whom he did communicate such speeches: who answe-
red that he would speake them to none, but to great schollers,
and that he would not haue spoken them to this deponer, if
he

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he had not knowne him to be a fauorer of him, and a friend of his house, and he would not reueale the same againe, seeing he knew they would be euill interpreted amongst the common fort.

Sic subscribitur, I. Weymis of Bogie.

Apud Falkland 20. August 1600.

In presence of the Lordes Chancellour, Treasurer, Aduocate: sir George Home of Spot, sir Robert Meluill, and sir James Meluill Knights.



After *William Rinde*, sworne and examined, and demanded, where he first did see the Characters that were found about my Lorde, depones, that he hauing remained a space in *Venice*, at his returning to *Padua*, did finde in my Lordes pocket, the characters which were found about him at his death: and the deponer enquiring of my Lord, where he had gotten them: my Lord answered, that by chance he had copied them himselfe: and the deponer knowes that the Characters in Latine are my Lordes owne hand-writing, but he knowes not if the Hebrew Characters were written by my Lorde. Depones further, that when my Lord would change his clothes, the Deponer would take the characters out of my Lords pocket, and would say to my Lord; Wherefore serue these? And my Lord would answer, can you not let them be? they do you no euill. And further, the Deponer declares, that sometimes my Lord would forget them, vntill he were out of his Chamber, and would turne backe, as he were in an anger, vntill hee had found them, and put them in his owne pocket: Depones further, that hee was sundry times purposed to haue burned the Characters, were it not that he feared my Lordes wrath and anger: seeing when the Deponer would purposely leaue them

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them sometimes out of my Lords pocket, my Lord would be in such an anger with the deponer, that for a certaine space he would not speak with him, nor could not find his good countenance. And that (to this deponers opinion) my Lord would neuer be content to want the characters of himselfe, from the first time that the deponer saw them in *Padua*, to the houre of my Lords death.

Being demanded for what cause my Lord kept the Characters so well, depones, that to his opinion, it was for no good, because he heard, that in those parts where my Lord was, they would giue sundry folkes breeues.

Depones further, that maister *Patrike Galloway* let this deponer see the characters, since that he came to this Towne of *Falkland*, and that he knowes them to be the very same characters which my Lord had. Depones also, that on monday the fourth of August, the maister *Andrew Henderson*, and the deponer remained in my Lords chamber till about tenne houres at euen, and after a long conference betwixt the Lord and the maister, my Lord called for *Andrew Henderson*, and after some speeches with him, dismissed them.

Denies that he knew of the maisters or *Andrew Hendersons* riding to *Falkland*, and after *Andrews* returne from *Falkland*, vpon the morrow, howbeit he did see him booted, yet hee knew not that he was come from *Falkland*.

Depones that my Lord being at dinner when the Maister came in, the deponer heard my Lord say to the maister: is the king in the Inshe? And with that he did rise, and said, let vs go. But the deponer knowes not what the maister saide to my Lord.

Being demaunded if he did see any kinde of armor or weapons, except swords, in the Kings company, depones that he did see none.

It being demaunded how the deponer was satisfied with my Lords answer made to him, concerning the Kings com-

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ming to saint *Iohnstoun*, saying that hee knewe not how hee came: declares that he thought that my Lord had dissembled with him, and that he behoued to haue knowne it, seeing his brother was come with his Maiestie before that hee demanded of him, and that hee had conferred with my Lord priuily.

Depones, that he knew not that the maister was ridden to *Falkland* vntil after his Maiesties comming to saint *Iohnstoun*, that *Andrew Ruthwen* tolde him, because the deponer inquired of *Andrew Ruthwen*, where the master and hee had bin, and that *Andrew* answered, they had been in *Falkland*: and that the maister hauing spoken with the King his maiesty, came forward with them, and that this conference betwixt the deponer and *Andrew Ruthwen* was in the yeard when my Lord was there. And *Andrew Ruthwen* shewed to the deponer, that *Andrew Hendersoun* was directed by the master, to shew my Lord, that his Maiestie was comming.

Depones also, that in his opinion, the maister could not haue drawne the King to my Lords house, without my Lordes knowledge: and that when hee heard the tumult, hee was resolu'd in his heart the maister had done his maiestie wrong, and that no true Christian can thinke otherwise, but that it was an high treason attempted against his Highnesse by the master and the Lord.

Depones also, that to his opinion, the Kings whole company was within a dozen of men.

Sic subscribitur. M. IV. Rind.

22. August. 1600.

Maister *William Rind* sworne and re-examined, if euer hee heard the Earle of *Gowrie* vtter his opinion, anent the ductie of a wise man, in the execution of an high enterprize: declares, that being out of the country, he had diuerse times heard him reason in that matter, and that hee was euer of that opinion, that he was not a wise man, that hauing intended

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ded the execution of an high and dangerous purpose, communicate the same to any but to himselfe, because keeping it to himselfe, it could not be discovered nor disappointed: which the deponer declared before vnequred to the Controller, and Maister *William Cowper* minister, at *Perth*: and hearing the depositions of *Andrew Hendersoun* read, and being enquired vpon his conscience, what hee thought of the fact that was committed against his Maiestie, declares, that vpon his saluation, that he beleecues *Andrew Hendersoun* has declared the circumstances truly.

Sic subscribitur. M.W. Rynd.

Apud Falkland. 20. August. 1600.

*In presence of the Lordes Chancellour,
Treasurer, Aduocate: Controller, and Sir
George Home of Spot, sir James Mel-
uill, Knights.*

A *Ndrew Hendersoun* sworne and examined, and demanded, what purpose was betwixt him and the earle of *Gowrie* vppon monday at night the fourth of this instant in the saide Earles chamber: depones, that the Earle inquired of him what hee would be doing vpon the morne, and hee answered, that hee was to ride to *Ruthwen*: the earle said vnto him, you must ride to *Falkland* with Maister *Alexander* my Brother, and when he directs you backe, see that yee returne with all diligence, if he send a letter or any other aduertisement with you.

Depones, that the maister directed him to send for *Andrew Ruthwen* to be in readinesse, to ride with them the morrowe at foure houres in the morning.

Declares, that they comming to *Falkland* about seauen

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houres in the morning, the Maister stayed in a lodging beside the Pallace, and directed the deponer, to see what the King was doing: and the deponer finding his Maiestie in the close comming forth, he passed backe, and told the master, who immediately addrested himselfe to his Highnesse, and spake with his Maiestie a good space beneath the Equirie: and after his Maiestie was on horse backe, the maister cometh to the deponer, and commaundes him to fetch their horses, and bade him haste him, as he loued my Lordes honour and his, and aduertise my Lord, that his Maiestie and hee would be there incontinent, and that his Maiestie would be quiet: and the deponer enquiring of the Master, if he should go presently, he bade him leape on and follow him, and not to go away vntill he spake with the King, and the Maister hauing spoken with the King at a breach of the Parke wall, he turned backe and bade the deponer ride away, and the deponer making his returne in all possible haste to Saint *Iohnstoun*, he found my Lord in his chamber, about tenne houres, who left the company he was speaking with, and came to the deponer, and asked, hath my brother sent a letter with you? The deponer answered, No: but they will be all heereincontinent, and bade the deponer desire my Lord, to cause prepare the dinner. Immediately thereafter my Lord took the deponer to the cabinet, & asked at him, how his Maiesty took with the master his brother? The deponer answered, very well, and that his Maiestie laide his hand ouer the masters shoulder. Thereafter my Lord enquired if there were many at the hunting with the King: the deponer answered, that he tooke no heede, but they who were accustomed to ride with his Maiestie, and some Englishmen, were there: and that my Lorde enquired what speciall men were with his Maiestie, and that the deponer answered, he did see none but my lord Duke. And within an houre thereafter, when the deponer came in from his owne house, the erle bade him put on his secret and plaite sleeves, for he had an hie-land
man

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man to take, which the deponer did incontinent : and about twelue houres, when the deponer was going out to his owne house to dinner, the Steward came to him and tolde him, that *George Cragsgelt* was not well, and was laine downe, desired him to tarry and take vp my Lords dinner: and about halfe an houre after twelue, my Lord commanded him to take vp the first seruice. And when the deponer was commanded to take vp the second seruice, the master and *William Blaire* came into the Hall to my Lord.

The deponer remembreth himselfe, that *Andrew Ruthwen* came before the maister a certaine space, and spake with my Lord quietly at the Table, but heard not the particuler purpose that was amongst them. And so soone as the maister came to the Hall, my lord, and the whole company rose from the Table: and the deponer hearing the noyse of their forth-going, supposed they were going to make breakes for *Macconilday*: and the deponer sent his boy for his gauntlet and steele bonnet: and seeing my Lorde passe to the Inshe, and not to the shoe gate, the Deponer did cast the gauntlet into the Pantry, and caused his boy to take his steele bonnet to his owne house: and he followed my Lorde to the Inshe, and returning backe with his Maiestie to the lodging, being directed to get drinke. And the maister came to the Deponer, and bade him cause maister *William Rinde* to send him vppe the key of the Gallery chamber, who passed vp and deliuered the key to the master: and immediately my Lord followed vp, and did speake with the maister, and came downe againe, and directed maister *Thomas Cranstone* to the deponer, to come to his Lordship in his Maiesties Chamber. And that my Lord directed him to goe to the Gallery to his brother, and immediately my Lord followed vp, and commaunded the Deponer to bide there with his brother, and to do any thing that hee bade him: The deponer enquired at the maister, what haue ye to do sir? The maister answered, ye must goe in here,

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and tarry vntill I come backe, for I will take the key with mee. So he locked the deponer in the round within the chamber, and tooke the key with him. Shortly thereafter, the maister returned, and the Kings maiestie with him to the said cabinet, in the round: and the maister opening the doore, entered with the King into the said round: and at his very entry couering his head, pulled out the deponers dagger, and held the same to the Maiesties breast, saying: Remember ye of my fathers murther? Yee shall now die for it: and minting to his Highnesse hart with the dagger, the deponer threw the same out of his maisters hand: and swore, that as God shall iudge his soule, if the maister had retained the dagger in his hand the space that a man may goe sixe steppes, he would haue stricken the King to the hilts with it: but wanting the dagger, and the Kings maiestie giuing him a gentle answere, hee saide to the Kings maiestie with abhominable oathes, that if hee would keepe silence, nothing should aile him, if hee would make such promise to his brother, as they would craue of him: and the Kings maiestie inquiring what promise they would craue: he answered that he would bring his brother. So he goes forth, and lockes the doore of the round vpon his maiestie and the deponer: hauing first taken oath of the King, that hee should not crie, nor open the windowe.

And his Maiestie enquiring of the deponer what hee was: he answered, A seruant of my Lords. And his Maiestie asking of the deponer, if my Lord would doe any euill to him? The deponer answered, As God shall iudge my soule, I shall die first. And the deponer pressing to haue opened the window, the maister entred, and said: Sir, there is no remedy, by God you must die: and hauing a loose garter in his hand, pressed to haue bound his Maiesties hands, and the deponer pulled the garter out of maister *Alexander* his hand. And then the maister did put one of his hands in his Maiesties mouth, to haue stayed him to speake, and held his other arme about his
High.

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Highnesse necke : and that this deponer pulled the maisters hand from his Highnesse mouth, and opened the window: & then his Maiestie cried out thereat, whereupon his Highnesse seruant came in at the gate, and this deponer did runne and open the doore of the Turnepecke head, whereat *Iohn Ramsay* entred: the deponer stood in the chamber till he saw *I: Ramsay* giue the maister a stroke: and thereafter priuily conueied himselfe downe the Turnepecke to his owne house : and the deponers wife enquiring of him, what the fray meant? The deponer answered, that the Kings Maiestie would haue beene twice sticked, had not he relieved him.

*Sic subscribitur Andrew Henderson
with my hand.*

Further, the said *Andrew Henderson* depones, that after his returning from *Falkland* on the fift of this instant, maister *Iohn Montchrief* enquiring of him where he had beene? He answered, that he had bin beyond the bridge of *Erne*, and saies, that he gaue that answer to maister *Iohn*, because my lord commanded him to let no man know that hee was to ride to *Falkland*: and that my Lords direction to him, was, to come backe with his brother maister *Alexanders* aunswere, and to leaue *Andrew Rishwen* to waite vpon the maister.

*Sic subscribitur Andrew Henderson
with my hand.*

Further, the said *Andrew Henderson* depones, that when he had taken the masters hand out of the kings maiesties mouth, and was opening the window, maister *Alexander* said to him, Wilt thou help? Wo betide thee, thou wilt make vs all die.

*Sic subscribitur Andrew Henderson
with my hand.*

FINIS.